REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview conducted February 17, 2004, and present in this Amendment the claim amendments discussed in that interview that were deemed to place this application in condition for allowance. As suggested by the Examiner, applicants have amended claims 1-5 and 11-12 to specify that a chemokine gene is "operatively linked to a functional promoter." Further, as suggested by the Examiner, applicants have removed the term "pharmaceuticals" from claims 11-12. Applicants have also incorporated the limitations of claim 1 into claims 11-12. Finally, claims 15 and 21 have been amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors introduced during presentation of claim amendments in previous correspondence with the Office. No new matter is added by these aforementioned amendments.

Applicants note, for the record, that the current claim amendments were made solely for the purpose of speeding prosecution, and applicants reserve the right to pursue all canceled subject matter in this or future continuing applications.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that this case is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that a Notice of Appeal was filed February 17, 2004. Enclosed is a Petition to extend the period for submitting an Appeal Brief for three months, to and including July 19, 2004, as July 17th is a Saturday, and a check in payment of the required extension fee.

If there are any additional charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

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